

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017199
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017199

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PDIP, MASS, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SPARE PARTS

REFS:A) ADDIS ABABA 0224; B) STATE 011020

1. IF SUBJECT OF SPARE PARTS SHOULD BE RAISED WITH YOU BY FELLEKE OR OTHER EPMG OFFICIALS, WE THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO DUCK THE QUESTION FOR THE TIME BEING BY REFERENCE TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY HOLD-UP TO DATE HAS BEEN CAUSED BY ETHIOPIAN FAILURE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FINANCING. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE TIME MAY SOON COME WHEN WE WILL HAVE TO INFORM THEM THAT DELIVERIES CANNOT TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO START PREPARING THE GROUND NOW. IT WOULD SEEM THIS MIGHT BEST BE DONE IF YOU WERE TO ADD TO FOREGOING YOUR PERSONAL OPINION THAT WHEN SHIPMENT ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE AND COMES TO PUBLIC ATTENTION, THERE MAY WELL

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BE CRITICISM THAT THE SHIPMENT IS HARDLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE US POSITION OF NOT SENDING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE OF THE CONFLICT. YOU MIGHT THEN WONDER OUT LOUD WHAT EFFECT THE RELEASE OF MILITARY-RELATED ITEMS TO ETHIOPIA MIGHT HAVE ON US ABILITY TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES FOR SENDING ARMS TO SOMALIA.

2. IF YOU AGREE TO UTILITY PREPARING GROUND IN THIS FASHION AND TO THE FOREGOING FORMULATION, YOU AUTHORIZED USE IT WHEN SUBJECT NEXT COMES UP. WHEN TIME COMES TO INFORM EPMG OF DECISION, SUGGEST ADDING FOLLOWING AS PENULTIMATE SENTENCE TO FORMULATION PROVIDED REF B: FURTHERMORE, THE EPMG WILL APPRECIATE THAT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE DELIVERY OF THESE MILITARY-RELATED ITEMS TO ETHIOPIA WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE PRESSURES FOR US TO DELIVER ARMS TO SOMALIA. SUCH PRESSURES ARE ALREADY BEING EXERTED BY SOMALIA'S FRIENDS AND BY AMERICANS WHO VIEW THE INCREASE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA AS A CHALLENGE REQUIRING A US RESPONSE. WE DESIRE TO CONTINUE OUR PROHIBITION ON THE SUPPLY OF US ARMS TO THE HORN. WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. CHRISTOPHER

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